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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Draft report

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Chapter I
Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Half-day discussion on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

1. At its thirteenth session, the Permanent Forum convened a one-day dialogue on the High-level Plenary Meeting/World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The Forum acknowledges the emerging consensus on this important meeting as well as the other opinions on the matter. Notwithstanding the commitments made by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/296 on the organization of the Conference, the Forum is deeply concerned that the full, effective and equal participation of indigenous peoples in all processes leading to and including the High-level Plenary Meeting remains uncertain. Concern about this crucial principle and right was the basis for a small number of calls to cancel the Conference and numerous calls for clarification from the President of the General Assembly. Time is of the essence. Clear and decisive leadership by the President of the Assembly is required to proceed with preparations leading up to the Conference. The Forum recognizes that the outcome document of the Conference will form a critical and important foundation for the future of indigenous peoples and will therefore require the full attention of all parties to the Conference.

2. The Permanent Forum reiterates that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the normative framework for the High-level Plenary Meeting/World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be convened during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly. The provisions of resolution 66/296

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must be given the widest and most generous interpretation possible in order to achieve the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples.

3. The Permanent Forum welcomes the organization by the Sami Parliament of Norway of the Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held in Alta, Norway from 10 to 12 June 2013. Member States, the United Nations system and indigenous peoples are urged to consider the Alta Outcome Document (A/67/994, annex) as the basis for consultations on the elaboration of the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting/World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

4. The Permanent Forum reiterates that all decisions related to the High-level Plenary Meeting/World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, its arrangements and the development of the outcome document should be made with the full, equal and effective participation of indigenous peoples, as recognized by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/296, in the Alta Outcome Document and in several recommendations of the Forum (E/2011/43, paras. 122-123; E/2012/43, paras. 69 and 83; and E/2013/43, para. 85).

5. The Permanent Forum welcomes the efforts of the indigenous Global Coordinating Group to respond to the request of the President of the General Assembly as its sixty-eighth session, which concluded with the nomination of two indigenous advisers. The Forum urges the President of the sixty-eighth session to formalize their designation so as to start the consultation process on the High-level Plenary Meeting/World Conference on Indigenous Peoples as soon as possible, by June.

6. The Permanent Forum recommends that the President of the General Assembly take immediate steps to ensure the equal, direct and meaningful participation of indigenous peoples throughout all aspects and processes of the High-level Plenary Meeting/World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in order to achieve an inclusive, constructive and comprehensive outcome that will genuinely promote the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (art. 18).

7. The Permanent Forum regrets the cancellation by the Government of Mexico of the March 2014 regional and thematic preparatory meeting on the High-level Plenary Meeting/World Conference on Indigenous Peoples owing to the lack of clarity on the process leading up to the Conference. The Forum recognizes that such a regional and preparatory meeting would be a good opportunity for Member States and indigenous peoples to build further consensus on the process and content of the Conference and its related meetings and discussions.

8. In relation to the preparation for the High-level Plenary Meeting/World Conference, the Permanent Forum welcomes the study entitled "Rights of indigenous peoples: achievements and challenges in the Latin American countries", prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in collaboration with indigenous peoples and encourages States, agencies and regional commissions to undertake similar studies.